



**Robert E. Bush
Naval Hospital**

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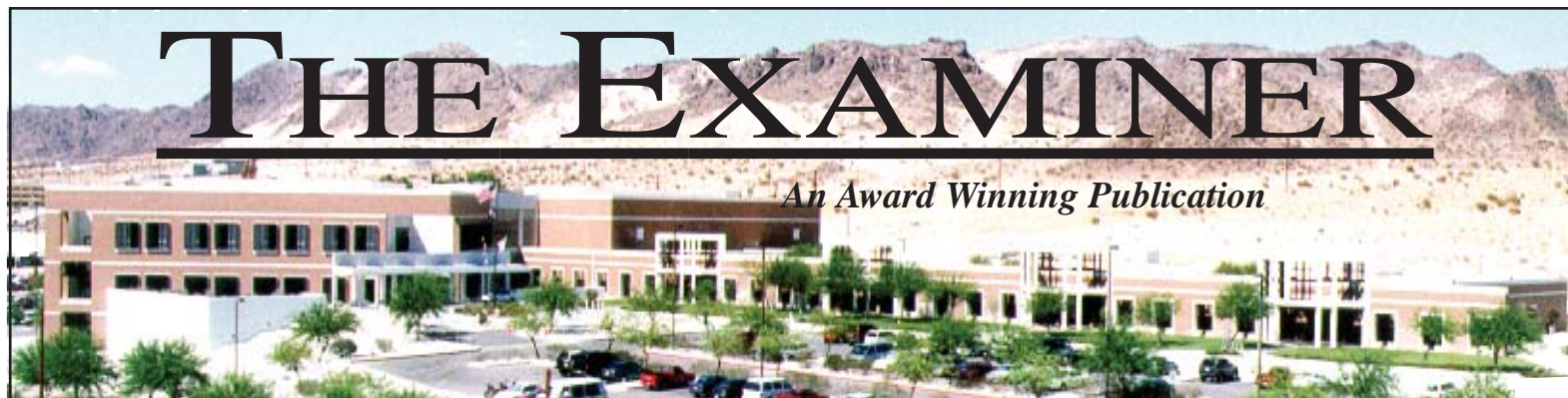
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Commanding Officer
Naval Hospital Public Affairs Office
Box 788250 MAGTFC
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8250



<http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhttp/pages/default.aspx>



Welcome 1st Baby of 2018!

LaNiyah Grace Velez was born January 2, 2018, at 12:20 a.m., representing the first baby of the year for the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital. LaNiyah was 6 lbs, 12 ounces, with a length of 22 inches. Parents are LCpl Theo Velez from Denver, Colorado, assigned to the 3rd Battalion/4th Marines, and LaDaiju Velez, originally from Chicago, Illinois. Mrs. Velez said she had "a great experience at the Naval Hospital and staff have been awesome." Congratulations, Velez family!



NHTP Classroom 4 was transformed into a board room for the initial meeting of the Joint Commission and Inspector General teams and hospital leadership.

Preparation is Key for Success in Joint Commission/IG Inspections



Ms. Cindy Renaker (middle front) and Capt. Lena Hartzell (front right) lead the Joint Commission and MEDIG teams as they arrive en masse for a comprehensive survey/inspection December 5-7.

Teamwork, dedication, preparation, knowledge and expertise--these aren't buzz words; they are the guiding principles that allowed team Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms to excel during the Joint Commission/MEDIG survey and inspection December 5-7. Executive Officer, Capt. Patrick Amersbach noted that this was his fourth Joint Commission/MEDIG survey and he's never seen success like NHTP's. "We had an opportunity to show the survey team and the inspection team what we are capable of, what we do every day to support excellence in patient care," Amersbach told staff during the out-brief.

Out of approximately 1,800 Joint Commission compliance items, NHTP had 20 hits, repre-

senting a 98.8 percent compliance rate.

Leading the MEDIG team, Capt. Lena Hartzell said, "Med IG is all about looking at programmatic compliance. We look at programs that take care of people, that take care of money and take care of processes. You have 68 programs that we looked at and we only found eight RFIs. You have an amazing staff."

Ms. Latrease Burton, NHTP Department Head, Quality Management and Joint Commission Coordinator, credited a patient-centered, well-prepared staff for the survey's success. "The survey was success-

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Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) Training Brings Realism

Tactical Combat Casualty Care training is a three-day block of instruction that begins in the classroom and culminates with Corpsmen, in a highly stressful environment, bringing to bear life-saving medical care on a simulated battlefield.

Locally administered from the Staff Education and Training Department (SEAT). The first

two days are the didactic portion of the course in which students are provided the knowledge and skills to provide medical care in a combat environment, to include initial pre-hospital care for brain injuries. The pictures, below, were taken on the final day of training on December 6, 2017, behind the NHTP Emergency Department.



During the practical exercise, TCCC students approach a simulated battlefield with casualties.



A TCCC student intubates a battlefield casualty while course instructor, HM2 Seth Anderson, evaluates his technique.



TCCC course instructors evaluate a student as he applies a pressure dressing. Students are evaluated on how they apply small-unit tactics and good medicine.



On December 11, representatives from the Four Seasons Senior Community, Hemet, California, delivered knitted items and other gifts intended for new mothers and their families on the Maternal Infant and Nursing Ward. L-R: Hospitalman Liping Huang, Mr. Gerald Lapreze, Hospitalman Tomilola Odumuawagun, Ms. Brenda Beers, Hospitalman Brandon Cirillo, Lt. Cmdr. Mary King, Ms. Jackie Peterson, Hospital Corpsman Second Class Gustavo Domingueztrejo and Hospital Corpsman Third Class Dylan Beck.

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MEDIG Capt. Lena Hartzell presented Ms. Tanya Stuckey with a MEDIG coin. "You've done an amazing job with the health promotions and wellness programs. So on behalf of my team, I would like to say, thank you so much for everything you do."



MEDIG Capt. Lena Hartzell presented HM2 Mercedes Maebane with a MEDIG coin: "You've done a fantastic job with the Hospital Corpsman Skills Basic Program. You've taken it to the next level."



MEDIG Capt. Lena Hartzell presented Lt. Cmdr. Anthony Biascan with a MEDIG coin: "You do a fantastic job with Occupational Health. With your collaborating and communicating, you've taken it to the next level."



MEDIG Capt. Lena Hartzell presented HM2 Joseph Towery with a MEDIG coin: Thank you so much for all that you do. For completely overhauling and developing the supply system in the Emergency Department, thank you for everything you do."



Checking expiration dates



Safety Office brief



Radiology (MRI) Checklist



Command Evaluator



Pharmacy



MSW

Joint Commission/MEDIG, continued from Page 1

ful due to our staff's relentless commitment to providing high quality patient care. This was accomplished by always being ready for our next patient and not just prepping for the Joint Commission survey," Burton noted.

Ms. Barbara Ricker, NHTP Command Evaluator and MEDIG Coordinator, credited a standardized MEDIG binder system promulgated throughout all NHTP Directorates. "MEDIG after-action summaries continuously mentioned

that the inspectors appreciated the binders, their appearance, the order of things, and the continuity they provided to the programs," Ricker said.

Ms. Ricker was instrumental in creating a culture shift of being ready at all times rather than just in preparation for the scheduled survey/inspection. She provided self-assessment checklists, applicable higher-level guidance and inspection results from past MEDIG findings. She educated program managers and assessed three to four programs per week. "Program managers were frequently changing, but the continuity of these assessment

folders endured," Ricker said.

Ms. Tanya Stuckey, Directorate for Public Health, administers Health Promotions and the ShipShape programs. She was inspected by the MEDIG; and as a result of her success, was presented with a MEDIG coin.

Ms. Stuckey offered this advice: "Be organized and add time into your calendar (literally put it on your Outlook calendar) and regularly check your inspection binders for outdated information. Add new information as it comes up. Keeping up with it throughout the year makes it less stressful when it's time to

be inspected. If your binder is updated and used for reference regularly, it will keep your program on track and minimize complacency."

Director for Public Health, Cmdr. Wendy Stone, said: "Teamwork and dedication were the keys to success in the Directorate for Public Health. All of the staff were engaged, confident and eager to share their work with the Joint Commission and MEDIG."

Hospital Commanding Officer, Capt. Nadjmeh Hariri, congratulated her command during the out-brief. "We're here to take

care of patients and my staff has knocked this out of the park. Thank you for everything you do." Hariri also mentioned that Branch Health Clinic China Lake had no Joint Commission findings. "That is unheard of," she said.

MEDIG Inspector, Capt. Hartzell, concluded the MEDIG outbrief: "We had a great visit. This command has so much passion for what you do. It's just so impressive. We'll take our finding back to the Surgeon General and let him know what great work you all are doing."

Awardees...

The following awards were presented during the First Friday Award Ceremony, December 1, 2017, in NHTP Classrooms 4 & 5. Hospital Commanding Officer, Capt. Nadjmeh Hariri, was the presenting officer with Executive Officer Capt. Patrick Amersbach and Command Master Chief Jerry Ramey.



Lt. Temitope Ayeni is presented with a Letter of Commendation and a plaque citing his selection as NHTP Officer of the Year for Fiscal Year 2017.



Hospital Corpsman Third Class Byron Cheung was pinned to his current rank by HM2 Jared Posey.



Cmdr. Virgilio Crescini is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.



Hospital Corpsman Second Class Regina Davis is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.



Personal Specialist Third Class Rachel Dietz was pinned to her current rank by YN2 Charles Castillo and HM2 Earlston Defoe.



Hospital Corpsman Second Class Gustavo Domingueztrejo is pinned to his present rank by Lt. Cmdr. Esther Colbert and Lt. Michelle Garton.



Hospital Corpsman Third Class Aaron Foster was pinned to his present rank by HM2 Dennis Chapman and Lt. Sullivan.



Hospital Corpsman Third Class Nikolai Fullmer was pinned to his current rank by Lt. Cmdr. Anthony Biascan.



Hospital Corpsman Second Class Victor Garcia was pinned to his current rank by HM2 Jared Posey.



Hospital Corpsman Second Class Christina Keithley was pinned to her current rank by Lt. Cmdr. Danielle Robins and Hospitalman Solomon Keithley.



Culinary Specialist Third Class Charjustice Williams was pinned to her current rank by Lt. Tony Henry.



Ms. Danielle Vasquez is presented with a Letter of Commendation and a plaque citing her selection as Junior Civilian of the Year for Fiscal Year 2017.



Hospital Corpsman Third Class Oscar Valle was pinned to his current rank by Lt. Maureena Demarzio.



Ms. Barbara Ricker is presented with a Letter of Commendation and a plaque citing her selection as Senior Civilian of the Year for Fiscal Year 2017.



Hospital Corpsman Third Class Terry Mullins was pinned to his current rank by HMI Travis Campbell.



Hospital Corpsman Third Class Mitchel Lindgren was pinned to his present rank in a frocking ceremony Dec 15 on the Green Mile patio.



Hospital Corpsman Third Class Alexandria Agudelo reenlisted for six more years December 8. Agudelo is the Assistant Lead Petty Officer on the Multi-Service Ward. She's been in the Navy for four years, the past year and a half at NHTP. Hometown is Stockton, California. Reenlisting Officer is Lt. Cmdr. David Hanrahan.



Hospital Corpsman Third Class Joseph Lujano reenlisted for five more years December 15. Lujano is a general-duty Corpsman assigned to the Multi-Service Ward. He's been in the Navy for five years. Hometown is Grand Prairie, Texas. Reenlisting Officer is Capt. Jeffrey Bledsoe.

Introducing New Staff -- Welcome Aboard!



Ms. Virginia Curry

Ms. Jenny Curry is NHTP's new Behavioral Healthcare Facilitator for Family Medicine (Blue and Gold teams). She has a broad range of experience as a registered nurse, having worked on the Multi-Service Ward at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune; a three-year stint as a post-partum nurse in a community hospital; and she was a volunteer nurse at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni. "I love people; and if I can teach them or help them that's what I'm here for," Curry said. Home-town is Carrollton, Georgia. Curry earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. The Currys have a son, two, and a daughter, five. She said the family is adapting well to life in Southern California. They plan to camp out in Joshua Tree and they spent Thanksgiving at the Coronado Beach. Curry said she's here to help people. "I reach as far as I can and find answers; and I do my very best to be there for my patients," she said.



HM1 Lisa Scott

Hospital Corpsman First Class Lisa Scott arrived from Sasebo, Japan, assigned to the USS Green Bay (LPD 20), where she was Medical Administration Leading Petty Officer (LPO) and Sick-call LPO. She's been in the Navy for 15 years. Hometown is Newton, Kansas. Scott originally joined up when she was working to become a physician assistant and was told she needed patient-care experience. Fifteen years later she says she's enjoyed being a Navy Corpsman. "There were a lot of varied experiences from serving with the Marines and the Seabees, serving as a tech in a couple of different hospitals and now I've just come off a ship," she said. Scott graduated from "C" School as a neurology technician and also as a career counselor. Scott said she was excited to get a state-side assignment; and as she researched the locality was further excited to learn about the national parks and wilderness areas. Her favorite assignment: Being a career counselor in Naples, Italy.



Ms. Kathleen Switter

Ms. Kathleen Switter is NHTP's new Case Manager. She arrives from Akron, Ohio, where she was a case manager for a home-care service. Switter moved to this area after learning her pastor was moving to Yucca Valley and starting a church in Palm Springs. "I got this job which confirmed, I was moving to California; and we moved to Yucca Valley," she said. She found the position after browsing the Indeed on-line job search engine. Switter traveled cross country with her two sons, her husband, her dog and her horse. Her parents came along too, but they've since returned to Akron. So far, she loves the relocation. "I love that I can help Marines; and I love that I arrived to work not wearing a coat this morning." Switter earned her RN degree from Youngstown State University. She said she brings understanding and compassion to the position, plus a strong desire to help others. For hobbies, the Switters enjoy horses, watching movies and camping.



Dr. Rudy Jones

Dr. Rudy Jones comes aboard as NHTP's new physical therapist. She's originally from Houston, Texas. Jones earned her PhD. in physical therapy from the University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio. As an undergraduate student, she double majored at the University of Notre Dame and earned degrees in science pre-professional and anthropology. Jones was a formidable athlete at Notre Dame, competing in track and field, she also threw the shot put, hammer and weights. Jones had been working in the civilian sector, treating a largely pediatric patient population. She said she looks forward to the transition to Navy medicine. She lives on base with her two young children and husband, who is assigned to the Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group. Jones said she enjoys the quiet of the high desert. For hobbies, her family loves to watch movies; and they travel whenever they can, by car or plane, to visit their families.



CS2 Jacob Galvan

Culinary Specialist Second Class Jacob Galvan has been in the Navy four and a half years and is here for his first shore-side assignment. He arrived from the guided-missile cruiser, USS Mobile Bay (CG 53) where he was watch captain. Hometown is Yuba City, California. Galvan joined the Navy to follow in the footsteps of his dad and step-mom. Galvan's dad retired as a U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant; and his step-mom was a Navy Corpsman before becoming a Nurse Corps officer. Both parents served in Twentynine Palms, his dad with the 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion and his step-mom at NHTP. Galvan said it feels like coming home when he returned to Twentynine Palms. He is here with his wife and their shepherd-mix dog. As a culinary specialist, his favorite dish is chilimac. Galvan's educational goal is to pursue either a criminal-justice degree or a theology degree. Galvan enjoys hiking, playing trading-card games and walking the dog.



The NHTP Laboratory Department were sorry to see Lt. Theo Cunningham (center) PCS November 30, but wish him all the best and look forward to meeting him at another duty station.



NHTP Senior Executive Nurse, Capt. Jeffrey Bledsoe, transformed into Santa Claus for the NHTP Christmas Party December 12.



Lt. Cmdr. William Johnson was piped ashore and into retirement December 15, after 33 1/2 years of active-duty service.



Hospital Corpsman Third Class Richard Postlethwaite reenlisted for six more years during a rooftop ceremony January 8. Postlethwaite, originally from Jacksonville, North Carolina, has been in the Navy for four years, the last three at NHTP. Postlethwaite is a staff Corpsman on the Multi-Service Ward. Reenlisting Officer is Lt. Tony Henry.



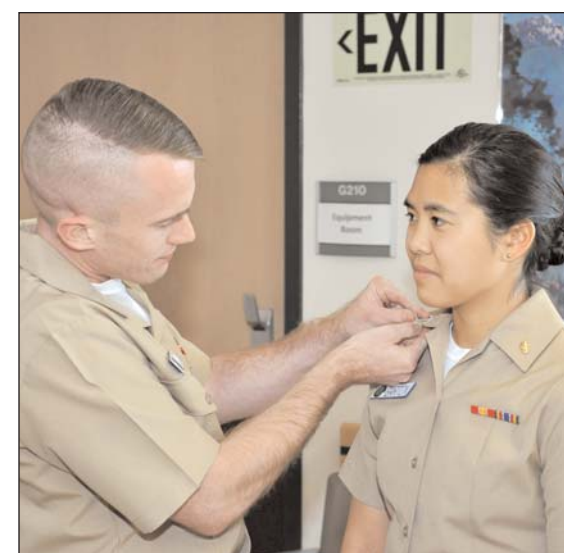
Making the NHTP Christmas party a rousing success were the culinary specialist elves. L-R (back row): CS3 Karlia Thomas, CS3 Charjustice Williams, CS2 Francis Deodatticadiz; (front row): CSSM Bianca Montanez, CS3 Germaine Dimapilis.



Ms. Ann Denslow, NHTP Supervisory Supply Management Specialist, was presented with her Desert Rat Certificate during her retirement ceremony December 8. We are all appreciative of Ann's 30 years of faithful service to the federal government.



Chief Culinary Specialist Elvin Manzanarez reenlisted for six more years December 15. Manzanarez has been in the Navy for 15 years. Hometown is Los Angeles. Reenlisting Officer is Lt. Cmdr. Markeece Murriel.



Lt. Michelle Garton receives lieutenant bars from her husband, Lt. Jason Garton, following her promotion ceremony Jan 5 on the Multi-Service Ward. Lt. Michelle Garton is a staff nurse on the MSW. She's been in the Navy for four years. Hometown is in Orange County, California.

